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METRO MAGIC
HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE
TAKE PART TODAY {page 06}

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Campus. Controversy

▶ The video shows one student punching another repeatedly as other students cheer him on.

Several expelled after fight video

At least a half-dozen students have been expelled from Dean College in Franklin after a violent video showing a one-sided fight was posted online. The video, which has had more than 1.6 million views, shows one student accosting another allegedly over a stolen pair of sneakers. The victim is then punched repeatedly after being knocked to the ground as several other students taunt him. {page 02}

T officials say no way to trains at 2 a.m.

State rep to file bill that would extend weekend train hours to help boost businesses Even with increased fare, money-strapped MBTA could never afford it {page 02}

News

What's Romney hiding?

Presidential candidate spent $100K in state money to clear digital evidence trail Docs from his tenure erased {page 10}

Snoop, Wiz go old school {page 15}

Smell like a 'Jersey' girl

JWoww, what is that bewitching scent? It 'Shore' smells strong {page 12}

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Students booted for shoe fight

The posting of a video online seemed to be the downfall of some Dean College students who were expelled this week for failing to help a fellow student who was severely beaten over a pair of shoes.

Video of Friday's incident showed one student repeatedly punching another student in the head while others shout and cheer. The video was posted Monday on the website Worldstarhiphop.com.

A description attached to the video explains that the fight took place over a pair of stolen "foamposite" shoes.

It also shows the student ripping the victim's shoe off of his foot and hitting him in the head with it.

A Dean spokesman said campus security responded shortly after the fight and the student who threw the punches was expelled the same day.

Six other students who watched the beating were expelled Monday after college officials saw the video and sought out the students.

Dean President Paula Rooney said the video provided "disturbing views of what transpired."

MICHAEL NAUGHTON

▶ Screenshot of fight video

▶ Alleged robber

T seeks aid to find alleged robber

BOSTON. T police are asking for the public's help identifying a man who allegedly robbed a victim with a large knife at the Mattapan station on Nov. 27.

Police said the victim was on the platform when he was approached by a black Hispanic male who pulled a knife and demanded his wallet. The suspect fled on Blue Hill Avenue toward Cummings Highway. METRO

Three sentenced in hate crime

MARSHFIELD. Three people were ordered yesterday to spend time in jail for a hate crime in which they beat a black man outside a Marshfield restaurant.

Amanda Kelly, 23, Kevin Shdeed and Christopher Bratlie, both 25, were given sentences that varied between three months to up to three years in jail, according to the Patriot Ledger.

The group beat Tizaya Robinson of Jamaica Plain, who is now 21, outside Garlic restaurant in 2008.

Seven other people were also charged in connection with the assault. METRO

MBTA: Late hours are 'unaffordable'

Arlington Rep. plans to file bill to extend weekend train hours ◐ MBTA GM says it won't work ◐ Riders would still like to see 2 a.m. transport

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Which is better: a Night Owl in hand, or two lights on a tram?

While late-night weekend service on the T would relieve the stress of chasing down a taxi after stumbling out of Hub watering holes, MBTA officials said the agency doesn't have the extra cash for it.

"The proposal would hurt the T in a couple of areas — but it's not affordable," said acting General Manager Jon Davis.

Rep. Sean Garballey (D-Arlington) said he plans to file a bill to extend train hours to help boost Boston business — a plan that sparked interest among many T users yesterday.

No Night Owls

- **2005:** The MBTA canceled Night Owl services due to budget cuts and no riders.
- **"It wasn't drawing ridership that some people suggest late night service would,"** according to T spokesman Joe Pesaturo.

The proposal calls for trains to run as late as 2 a.m. and would apply a slight fare increase during the after hours to bring in extra bucks for the T.

"I think it's a great idea," said Anthony Jacobs, a daily rider. "It would keep people off the roads and from driving drunk, too."

But Davis said even with the extra incentive, the T couldn't handle it for several reasons, one being MBTA workers make train fixes when the system shuts down for the evening.

"It would have a detrimental effect on continuing to maintain the system because they would have less hours available to make those improvements," he said.

And at a time when the MBTA is getting ready to discuss proposals for fare increases and service reductions, facing a $161 million deficit next fiscal year, Davis said it just "boils down to being unaffordable."

"Expanding at a time of fiscal crisis is not something we can do at this point in time," he said.

STEVE ANNEAR
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In the news

$435M

The amount the state paid in Medicaid to the Boston Public Health Commission so far this fiscal year. The commission is the state's highest-paid vendor, according to the site Mass.gov/opencheckbook. The new state expenditure site launched Monday night after some technical glitches. METRO

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Why is Tom's Wife Smiling?

And the simple trick he used to help him perform like a 20 year old! Without drugs, pumps, or embarrassing doctor visits.

By, Stefan Rothler; Freelance Health Writer;

If you're like Tom, you know how frustrating it is when you can't "Stand Up" for yourself. Especially in the bedroom! And even though your wife tells you "its okay"— she secretly wishes you weren't such "a softy". For your sake and hers.

Tom's Story:

Tom M. had a big problem. His love-life was "coming up short". And like a lot of men his age, he had a tough time "performing" in the bedroom.

But Tom's wife was kind. She reassured him with words like "it's no big deal"--- but it really was. So she urged him to get some help. He took her advice…

Tom searched the web for answers, and came up with nothing but scams. Everything he tried failed. He thought about asking his doctor about that well-known "little blue pill". But it was way too expensive (as much as $30.00 per tablet). Plus, it doesn't work for 32% of all men who try it. And according to its warning labels you could wind up deaf, blind, or even dead! It's just not worth the risk.

The Secret of the Adult Film Industry

And by age 60, you're left with a fraction of the HGH you used to have. The signs of aging become impossible to ignore... narrower shoulders and more weight around the middle... thinner skin that loses elasticity... creases and wrinkles... aching joints and brittle bones... all signs that your body is gradually breaking down.

Add to that, decreased desire and ability and a loss of muscle tone that leads to a dangerous loss of agility and balance. But none of this has to happen...

Secret of The Rich and Famous

As Tom continued his research, he came across something unusual. He read that male actors in the adult film industry use something called "Herbal Virility". Before filming, the actors would pop one of these tiny pills in their mouth--- so when the director yells "action" - there's always plenty of it!

It's been the secret of adult film producers for years! That's because instead of taking a full-hour for it to work, Herbal Virility starts giving you "solid, long-lasting results" almost immediately after you take it --- no waiting!

Tom was excited to try it. After all, Herbal Virility helped thousands of men get back their confidence in the bedroom. And since its all-natural Herbal Virility is a lot safer than drugs. There are no pumps to hassle with, no embarrassing doctor visits needed and it's surprisingly affordable. Plus, it's based on Nobel prize-winning research...

Here's How It Works:

In 1998, three scientists shared a Nobel Prize for discovering that the chemical compound nitric oxide (or NO) plays a vital role in widening your blood vessels so blood flows more freely... especially in the "intimate areas" of your body.

When you're young, nitric oxide flows abundantly through your body. Unfortunately, as you grow older, your NO production starts to diminish. As a result, so does your love life. That's why Herbal Virility is so important.

Just pop a Herbal Virility into your mouth. Its proprietary formulation has no bitter taste and dissolves quickly into your bloodstream.

Herbal Virility contains all 25 of the most potent natural male enhancement boosters on earth. It helps kick-start your body's natural ability to produce nitric oxide on its own. So you're ready for action when you want it --- and as often as you want it. You'll get a "big boost" of confidence in the bedroom. And your wife will be so excited she may wake up the neighbors!

Rave Reviews Coming in Everyday

Most men, who experience Herbal Virility's firm results, can't get enough of it. Here's what people are saying...

W. Pritchett II of Newport News, VA, tells us; "After I turned 52, I couldn't get it to work. I thought my fun was over. But now, thanks to Herbal Virility I can heat things up in the bedroom anytime I want to." Please send me another 6 month supply!"

Melissa M. of Key Largo, FL reports; "Herbal Virility saved our marriage! What a difference it made in my husband. He's like a new man! All I can say is WOW!".

Not Available in Stores

The demand for Herbal Virility has been overwhelming. And until now, there just wasn't enough of it to go around. That's why the makers of Herbal Virility are limiting its supply to newspaper and magazine readers only.

Herbal Virility is amazing. Men who try it can't seem to get enough. But to really understand why, you have to try it for yourself. That's why the makers of Herbal Virility asked us to "spread the word" by offering our readers a full-month supply, at a super-discounted, "readers only" price.

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Tom Rides Again!

P.S... As for Tom, his love-life has never been better. His confidence has never been higher. And thanks to Herbal Virility, his marriage is the best it's been in years! See what all the fuss is about. Call Now: 1-800-471-6350.

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Hub-ba, hub-ba: Riders can connect soon with a T crush

Start looking your best before your commute because by spring the T paparazzi could be snapping your photo and uploading it to the Web.

Creators of the London-based TubeCrush.net and New York City's Subway Crush.net, a place where riders can post discreetly taken photos of attractive travelers for the public to rate, have plans to expand to an MBTA version.

"We have loads and loads of fans in Boston already, and it's the third-highest in views coming into the [current] site," said Stephen Motion, one of the founders.

No photos, please

Although they haven't had complaints, several people have asked the creators to take down photos from their site. Motion happily obliged.

Motion said the idea came to him and several friends during a night of drinking; and as soon as it launched, it soared.

The premise is simple: When you see a person you think is good looking, snap a photo. Then, share it with fellow commuters.

Boston transit rider Gail Davis said while the idea seems "creepy," she could see students jumping on board.

"Especially on a Friday or Saturday night on the Green Line," said Davis.

While the Boston site won't debut until late spring, Motion said they set a tone that is "complimentary" not "creepy."

"We will have discretion and make sure we [post] only legitimate photos."

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

Police seek swindlers

CAMBRIDGE. Police are trying to locate a pair of men who swindled a woman out of more than $30,000.

The men approached the elderly woman outside of a Cambridge bank last month and told her that they had a large sum of Japanese money that they found and they needed to open a bank account.

The woman gave them $30,100 in cash from two different banks, and the men told her that she would be contacted later that day with her share of the money.

Police posted details of the incident, along with a picture of one of the suspects, online yesterday.

Anyone with information can call 617-349-3300. METRO/MN

Body pulled from pond

ARLINGTON. A body was pulled from the water of an Arlington pond yesterday afternoon.

There was little information released about the discovery as of press time.

The unidentified man was found floating in Spy Pond, but it was not clear if foul play was suspected.

Police and investigators responded to the scene.

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Mayor eyes waterfronts

From the corner office

This week: Thomas Menino, Mayor of the City of Boston

Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino was the featured speaker at yesterday's Greater Boston Chamber Government Affairs Forum.

▶ Menino

1 On the success of the South Boston waterfront: "We launched an innovation strategy for the South Boston waterfront and made it a hub for new jobs, products and services. More than 90 new companies have located there, bringing 2,800 jobs. It's also home to the largest privately financed construction project in the country — the new home for Vertex."

2 On the need to develop the East Boston waterfront: "Right now, there are five large parcels that remain full of untapped potential along the East Boston waterfront. There are nine pending projects in total that could provide new jobs, new housing and new vibrancy to one of Boston's great neighborhoods. All told, these projects represent more than half a billion dollars of development."

3 On an East Boston Waterfront Development District: "I have asked the BRA to begin the process of creating [this district]. This will allow the city to use an array of tools to spark progress for the neighborhood. We will also finance a new marine terminal in East Boston [to] enhance harbor connections between East Boston and other neighborhoods. I propose today $1 million in annual support for harbor transportation, backed by a small additional cruise passenger fee."

Visit

▶ **For more information** or to register for these events, visit **Bostonchamber.com**

– Coming up at the Chamber

On Wednesday, Dec. 14, Dr. David Meeker, president and CEO of Genzyme Corporation will address the Chamber's Innovation Forum.

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Deadline closing in

metro
MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR
2011

With just three days left to make nominations for Metro's Man and Woman of the Year event, Steve Jobs, Apple's co-founder, received a large number of nominations yesterday. As Prasad Thothempudi wrote: "Steve Jobs. End of discussion."

The Navy SEAL Team Six, who assassinated Osama bin Laden, received a fresh batch of nominations; and in the Woman of the Year event, Hillary Clinton continues to receive support. The Occupy protestors received several nominations, too.

Nominations close at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9. From Monday Dec. 12, readers will be able to vote from a short list of nominated people.

Send nominations to **mwoty@metro.us.**

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GRAHAM DENHOLM/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A sand sculpture, above, captures the modern fear of bedbugs. These parasites can spread with one mating pair.

Bedbugs: Incest fuels infestations

Like any truly bad roommate, a single female bedbug can infest an entire apartment, a study shows.

Bedbugs inbreed without ill effects, the researchers said, so even a single mated bedbug can lead to a colony of the blood-sucking insects. Three colonized buildings in North Carolina and New Jersey suggested the invasion started with only one or two insects. Another study traced 21 infestations from Maine to Florida and found most began in a single room.

Bedbugs were almost eliminated in the U.S. 60 years ago by the pesticide DDT. International travel probably aided a resurgence in the past 30 years, said study author Coby Schal.

"This tells us it's absolutely critical to detect bedbugs early," said Schal, an urban entomology professor at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

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The number of infestations from the insects, which feed only on blood, has grown as much as 100-fold since 1990, said disease expert Rajeev Vaidyanathan.

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Court gives Lehman OK to exit bankruptcy

NEW YORK. Lehman Brothers Holdings Corp, now just the odds and ends of the global financial behemoth that collapsed in September 2008, received court approval yesterday to exit bankruptcy early next year.

Lehman may now wind down its remaining operations, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge James Peck said. Once a mammoth investment bank and brokerage, Lehman is now a collection of assets including real estate, private equity and banking investments.

At the time of the bankruptcy, Lehman was an international company with businesses and employees around the globe. Many of Lehman's 25,000 employees were saved by asset sales, but thousands still lost their jobs. **REUTERS**

ALEXANDER JOE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Greenpeace activists try to promote the use of renewable energy using solar and wind power on the Durban beachfront in South Africa where UN climate talks take place.

Global climate deal outlook: Not sunny

◗ UN head says new treaty may not go forward ◗ India, China say they shouldn't be punished for sins of the US

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon said a global warming treaty may be "beyond our reach" this week as India and China rejected pressure for developing nations to adopt mandatory pollution targets.

India, speaking with the Basic negotiating group of countries that also includes South Africa, Brazil and China, said industrial nations should move first in cutting fossil fuel emissions. The comments marked a hardening of positions that reduces the scope for an agreement.

"Basic countries are not major polluters," Indian Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan said. "They have a small footprint in the context of historical emissions."

After nine days of meetings, envoys from more than 190 nations remain divided about how to extend limits on greenhouse gas emissions once the Kyoto Protocol expires next year. The 1997 treaty capped emissions for industrial nations. It included no targets for developing nations including China and India, which have since become two of the three biggest polluters.

"The United States is setting an unreasonably high bar for reaching a comprehensive agreement," said Tim Gore, climate policy adviser at Oxfam. **BLOOMBERG**

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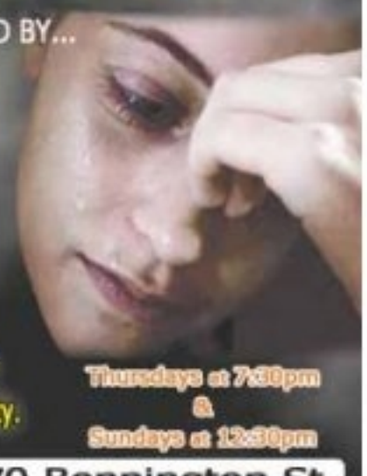
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Russia says US criticism of vote 'unacceptable'

Russia dismissed U.S. criticism of its parliamentary election as unacceptable yesterday and urged its former Cold War enemy to refrain from such "hostile attacks" in future.

Washington said it was seriously concerned by the conduct of Sunday's election, in which Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's ruling United Russia party suffered a decline in support but won a slim majority in the lower house.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who has been seeking to consolidate improvements in the sometimes strained relationship with Russia, suggested earlier yesterday the vote was neither free nor fair.

"Regrettably, Washington sticks to outdated stereotypes and labels without even attempting to understand what is happening in our electorate."
FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT

Thousands of Russians protested in Moscow against the alleged vote-rigging on Monday and demanded an end to Putin's rule. A few hundred stages similar protests yesterday. **REUTERS**

Violence. Afghanistan

▶ Afghans run from an explosion during a religious ceremony in Kabul city center yesterday. At least 30 people were killed.

MASSOUD HOSSAINI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Deadly blasts rip Afghanistan

A suicide attack killed at least 55 people at a gathering of Shi'ite Muslims at a crowded Kabul shrine yesterday in the worst sectarian violence Afghanistan has seen since the fall of the Taliban. The Kabul bomb was the deadliest in the capital since 2008. REUTERS

Romney staff spent $100K to hide records

- Used state funds to buy all new computers in effort to keep records secret
- Move was legal
- Erased internal documents from his tenure as governor

Mitt Romney spent nearly $100,000 in state funds to replace computers in his office at the end of his term as governor of Massachusetts in 2007 as part of an unprecedented effort to keep his records secret, Reuters has learned.

The move during the final weeks of Romney's administration was legal but unusual for a departing governor, Massachusetts officials say.

The effort to purge the records was made a few months before Romney launched an unsuccessful campaign for the Republican presidential nomination in 2008. He is again competing for the party's nomination, this time to challenge Barack Obama for the presidency in 2012.

Five weeks before the first contests in Iowa, Romney has seen his position as front-runner among Republican presidential candidates whittled away in the polls as rival Newt Gingrich, the former speaker of the House of Representatives, has gained ground.

When Romney left the governorship of Massachusetts, 11 of his aides bought the hard drives of their state-issued computers to keep for themselves. Also before he left office, the governor's staff had e-mails and other electronic communications by Romney's administration wiped from state servers, state officials say.

Those actions erased much of the internal documentation of Romney's four-year tenure as governor, which ended in January 2007. Precisely what information was erased is unclear. **REUTERS**

Bad news?

Republican and Democratic opponents of Romney say the scrubbing of e-mails — and a claim by Romney that paper records of his governorship are not subject to public disclosure — hinder efforts to assess his performance as a politician and elected official.

Earthlike planet discovered

MOFFET FIELA, CALIF. The most Earthlike planet ever discovered is circling a star 600 light years away, a key finding in an ongoing quest to learn if life exists beyond Earth, scientists said.

The planet, called Kepler-22b, joins a list of more than 500 planets found to orbit stars beyond our solar system. It is the smallest and the best positioned to have liquid water on its surface — among the ingredients necessary for life on Earth.

This is the first detection of a potentially habitable world orbiting a Sunlike star, scientists reported in findings to be published in The Astrophysical Journal. **REUTERS**

KASA/AMES/JPL-CALTECH

▶ Rendering

GOP blocks judgeship nominee

WASHINGTON. Republicans yesterday blocked President Barack Obama's nominee for a judgeship on a key U.S. appeals court that John Roberts vacated six years ago when he became U.S. chief justice.

On a 54-45 vote, Democrats fell short of the 60 votes needed to end a procedural roadblock against Caitlin Halligan, a former chief appellate lawyer for New York state.

Republicans opposing her cited her record on detainee policy and gun rights, including lawsuits she worked on against gun manufacturers. **REUTERS**

Obama targets GOP in snarky speech

President Barack Obama turned up the heat on his Republican foes yesterday as he portrayed himself as a champion of the middle class and laid out in the starkest terms yet the populist themes of his 2012 re-election bid.

In a speech meant to echo a historic address given by former President Theodore Roosevelt in the same Kansas town more than 100 years ago, Obama pressed his case for economic policies he insists will benefit ordinary Americans struggling through hard times.

He seized the opportunity to step up pressure on congressional Republicans to extend an expiring payroll tax cut that independent economists say is needed to keep the fragile economic recovery from unraveling. **REUTERS**

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2

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Joel McHale has a challenge for his fans, Simon Pegg is getting his movies mixed up, Hank Azaria is getting to the root of his problems and Conan O'Brien is starstruck.

▶ **@joelmchale**
Contest: find the account on twitter w/the fewest # of followers & the largest number of tweets. Prize: DVD of the Chevy Chase's Karate Dog.

▶ **@simonpegg**
Slightly confusing doing press for two films simultaneously. Keep talking about Ethan Hunt's faithful canine sidekick, Snowy.

▶ **@HankAzaria**
I confuse tackle with tickle a lot.

▶ **@ConanOBrien**
Had a great celebrity sighting today: the @DalaiLama at Chipotle.

The Shore gets another scent

▶ I know where most men would want to put their nose.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Not to be outdone by fellow "Jersey Shore" castmembers **Snooki** and **Sammi** releasing their own perfumes, busty reality star **JWoww** is releasing a signature fragrance. The perfume, simply called JWOWW, comes out just in time for the holiday season, retailing at such choice outlets as Kmart, Amazon.com and www.jwowwperfume.com.

According to the press release, JWOWW is a "sexy perfume inspired by days and nights down the shore." A tiny gold JWOWW charm adorns the sleek bottle, which was also designed by the reality TV star.

Classy rebranding from JWoww here. I love that "fresh air" (see below) is included as one of the predominant "notes" in place of, say, "vomit after a night of Red Bull, 2 a.m. chicken wings and a half case of Miller Lite." That's what I imagine for a smell "inspired by nights down the shore."

And incoming hate mail from Jersey people in three, two, one ...

Get a whiff!

Just in case we can fool ourselves into thinking this scent wasn't created by a bunch of Chinese child laborers mixing together a bunch of synthetic compounds into something resembling "sweet," there's even a hilarious rundown of the "notes" in the $29.99 bottle:

▶ **Top notes:** Anjou pear, sparkling citron, fresh air
▶ **Middle notes:** Rose petals, geranium blossom, sheer muguet
▶ **Bottom notes:** Sandalwood, deep musk, white moss

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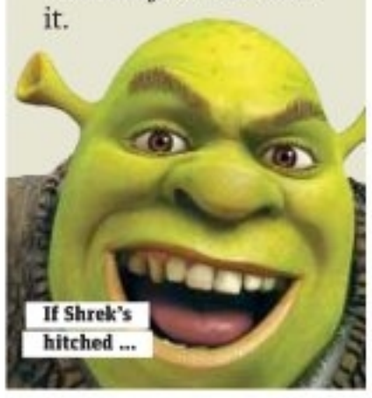
DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

Jolie-Pitt kids want marriage

It turns out the tabloids aren't the only ones constantly asking why **Brad Pitt** and **Angelina Jolie** haven't gotten married. Their six children are just as curious, Jolie admits in a "Nightline" interview with **Christiane Amanpour.** "They have asked, yeah, because they see movies that have the people getting married in the movies. Shrek and Fiona are married," Jolie says. "We've explained to them that our commitment — we decided to start a family — was the greatest commitment you could possibly have."

Could it be? Are the Jolie-Pitt children are closet Republicans? Certainly sounds like it.



Talking points

Depp to talk to LAPD

The Los Angeles Police Department is interested in speaking with **Johnny Depp** after one of his bodyguards was accused of assaulting a disabled woman at an **Iggy Pop** concert last week, according to TMZ. According to the filed complaint, **Robyn Ecker** — who paid $600 for her tickets to the concert — claims a member of Depp's entourage grabbed her wrists and wrestled her to the ground after she was dancing too close to his VIP table. Ecker went to the hospital before filing the complaint.

▶ Depp

He won't be Papa Clooney

This might have seemed obvious, given his aversion to marriage, but **George Clooney** has made it official that he has no plans to become a father. "I've always known fatherhood wasn't for me," he tells Australia's Daily Telegraph. "Raising kids is a huge commitment and has to be your top priority. For me, that priority is my work. That's why I'll never get married again."

ScarJo still down with marriage

Despite the demise of her two-year marriage to **Ryan Reynolds**, **Scarlett Johansson** doesn't regret saying "I do," she tells Cosmopolitan magazine. "I'm a big believer that when something feels right, you should do it," she says. "Getting married was the right thing to do because it was natural. It grew out of a romance and love and a desire to have a future with somebody." And Johansson is more than willing to take some of the blame: "Relationships are complicated," she adds. "I think I was not fully aware of the peaks and the valleys."

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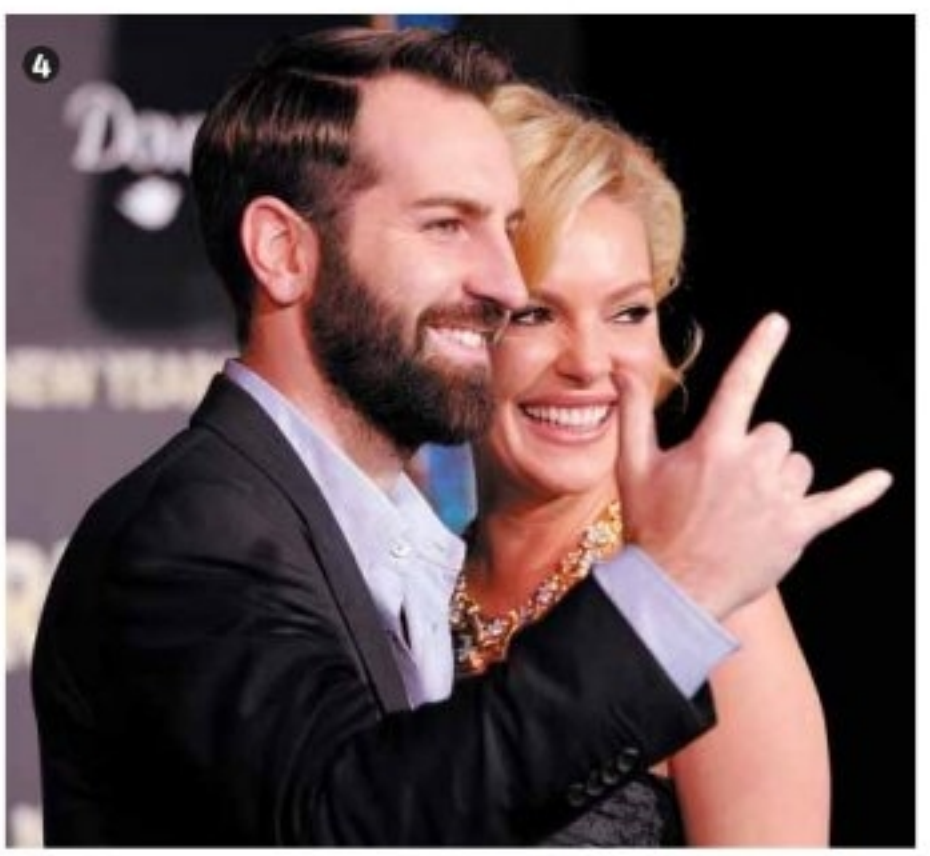
The 'New Year's Eve' premiere and more

1. Demi who? Lea Michele and Ashton Kutcher got flirty on the red carpet at the premiere of "New Year's Eve" in Hollywood, Calif., on Monday. Both actors are part of the film's ensemble cast, which opens this Friday.

2. Stacy Ann Ferguson (better known as Fergie) and husband Josh Duhamel also attended the "New Year's Eve" premiere.

3. Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt attended the premiere of Jolie's directorial debut, "In the Land of Blood and Honey" at the School of Visual Arts in New York City on Monday. The film is set for release on Dec. 23.



4. Katherine Heigl and husband Josh Kelley also popped up at the "New Year's Eve" premiere. Is anyone in Hollywood not in this movie?

5. Musician Jason Aldean and wife Jessica Aldean attended the American Country Awards 2011 in Las Vegas on Monday. The country singer bagged an impressive six awards, including Artist of the Year and Album of the Year.

6. Carrie Underwood was also at the American Country Awards. The "American Idol" alum won three awards, including Female Artist of the Year.

7. "Modern Family" star Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Justin Mikita attended the Trevor Project's 2011 Trevor Live! at The Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles on Sunday.

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‘High’ expectations

Kathleen Turner comes to the Hub, this time as an alcoholic nun in a gripping new play ● Director Rob Ruggiero discusses the emotional script

LARRY MAYER

▶ Turner, left, and Evan Jonigkeit share a moment in “High,” which opened last night at the Cutler Majestic.

There are three characters in “High” — a priest, a nun and a drug addict — and though it sounds like the beginning of a joke, the play’s plot is actually very serious.

“It’s about faith and addiction,” says director Rob Ruggiero, a Milford, Mass., native. “The play deals with a religious faith, but also a belief in a higher power, the faith in yourself to change.”

The show takes place in a Catholic rehab center, where a former alcoholic nun (played by Kathleen Turner) agrees to sponsor a 19-year-old crystal meth addict. Though it’s not strictly autobiographical, the production is based on the experiences of its playwright, Matthew Lombardo, a recovered meth user.

“We’ve always been concerned with honoring Matthew’s journey,” Ruggiero says. “To make sure the light that we represent onstage is truthful and not theatricalized — and respectful of that addiction community.”

Needless to say, the piece does not glamorize substance abuse. There is comedic relief in the story, through the unlikely friendship of the three main characters, but Ruggiero says it’s certainly no joke. “It’s very raw at times. ... This play could serve as a wake-up call for some people, in terms of the destructing nature of drug addiction.”

NORA DUNNE
nora.dunne@metro.us

Turner’s turn

Kathleen Turner’s film credits are numerous and acclaimed, but the husky-voiced actress’s roots are on the stage. “There are a lot of actors who come to the theater to explore, but Kathleen is the real deal,” says Ruggiero, her director in “High.” “She’s as candid as you would imagine, but she’s always respectful.”

‘High’
Through Sunday
Cutler Majestic Theater
219 Tremont St., Boston
$35-$100, 617-824-8000
www.aestages.org

TV watch list

‘Becoming Santa’

FILM. To reclaim the holiday spirit after the death of his father, a man goes to Santa Claus school in this documentary examining the icon and the way we embrace him.
9 p.m., OWN

▶ “Becoming Santa”

COURTESY OF OWN

‘Happy Endings’

COMEDY. Cash-strapped Max agrees to play St. Nick for Penny’s charity event. Maybe he should take some lessons at Santa Claus school first.
9:31 p.m., ABC

‘State of Play’

DRAMA. This epic political thriller starring Bill Nighy, James McAvoy and Kelly Macdonald delves into the mystery of a murdered woman with ties to a member of parliament that unearths a major conspiracy. The six-hour series spawned the 2009 film starring Russell Crowe and Ben Affleck. **Miniseries premiere, 10 p.m., BBC America**

‘Modern Family’

COMEDY. It’s Express Christmas for the Pritchetts and Dunphys. This episode gives last-minute holiday planning — including tree-buying and gift-wrapping — a new meaning. **9 p.m., ABC** ● AMBER RAY

TAG
theater & arts guide

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Wiz Khalifa gets schooled by Snoop Dogg

Wiz Khalifa is having a good 2011. This year saw the Pittsburgh native with a constant stream of achievements. His single "Black and Yellow" hit No. 1, he has sold out tours and he finished up the year with two Grammy nods. Now he's teaming up with friend and mentor Snoop Dogg for "Mac and Devin Go To High School," a new stoner comedy and joint album (heh heh) that will serve as the soundtrack. While the film has no official release date, the album drops next Tuesday. To spread the word, Wiz and Snoop hit the road with a mini tour earlier this week. Sadly, no Boston show was scheduled. Khalifa chatted with Metro about the project.

How was it to work on "Mac and Devin" with Snoop?
It's a dream come true to be able to work with Snoop. It just came together so naturally. It's like your O.G. just saying, "Yeah, you can come hang out with me." It worked for both of us. We're both inspired by each other. We wanted to do the movie and the soundtrack so that everyone else could have as much fun as we do.

With the serious tone that we have been seeing in the world lately, do you think there is room for that fun vibe?

▶ In the film version, Khalifa, right, plays the valedictorian struggling to write a graduation speech — and when he realizes he has spent all of his time studying and none hanging out, he finds inspiration in the worst student at the high school, who of course is played by Snoop.

Absolutely. At the end of the day, people want to be able to experience everything. You can't just wake up and be business all day. You can't be rock 'n' roll all day either. You have to slow it down and take it to different zones.

In the movie, your character comes out of his shell. Does that mimic your real life?
Not really. [Laughs] I think the movie shows a different side of me though. The less braggadocious side. The calm me that I really was in high school. Not as nerdy or dorky.

G. VALENTINO BALL
letters@metro.us

What we're into

Now:

GIRL WALK. Remember how giddy you were the first time you heard Girl Talk, the ultimate mash-up artist? This is the visual equivalent, as performers who've mastered several dance forms leap, tap, groove and do the robot all over NYC to Girl Talk's 2010 masterpiece, "All Day." Yes, it's a music video that clocks in at over an hour; but don't worry if this intimidates your attention span, it's released in two digestible installments per week through Jan. 6. www.girlwalkallday.com

For Christmas:

HOME SWEET HOMEBREW GIFT SET. Give a friend a case of beer, and he's feeling good for the holidays. Give a friend a homebrew kit, and he's hopped up all year — provided you don't go with some cheesy set from a mall kiosk. Anchored by a recipe book by George Hummel — co-owner of Home Sweet Home Brew, a Philly-based supplier that's been in the beer biz for 25 years — the kit includes everything you need to get started, including ingredients. **$150; Available at: www.homesweethomebrew.com** METRO

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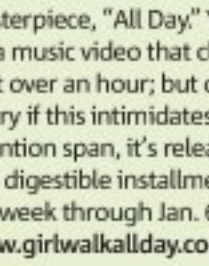

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The piano has been drinking

Composer Franz Schubert apparently really knew how to party ◗ 'Three Pianos' is some fully loaded theater

The performers in "Three Pianos" play 24 songs about a man who wanders into the woods and renounces all human contact. But the music is really all about a boozy night of male bonding.

"The message of the songs can be very sad and lonely, yet what they did was bring a group of people together," says Rick Burkhardt, one of three men who wrote and performs in the show. It revolves around a piece of music, "Winterreise," by 19th century Austrian composer Franz Schubert. In his heyday, Schubert and his poet friends gathered for elaborate parties called Schubertiads to play the songs.

"In a way, we re-enact these parties," says Burkhardt. The three men perform the full 75-minute song cycle, complete with singing and choreographed piano configurations. They riff on the original piece and occasionally slip into the persona of the composer and his contemporaries.

Burkhardt and his friends decided to write the show after happening upon an old, water-damaged "Winterreise" score at a late-night party in New York.

"So we played it," Burkhart remembers. Without intending to, they had recreated a Schubertiad. "All the ingredients were there: A group of friends, this music, alcohol. There was dancing [and] horsing around, and it kept coming back to these songs."

'Three Pianos'
Through Jan. 8
Loeb Drama Center
64 Brattle St., Cambridge
$25-$65, 617-547-8300
www.amrep.org

NORA DUNNE
nora.dunne@metro.us

▶ From left, Dave Malloy, Alec Duffy and Rick Burkhardt star in "Three Pianos." The titular pianos are behind them.

RYAN JORDEN

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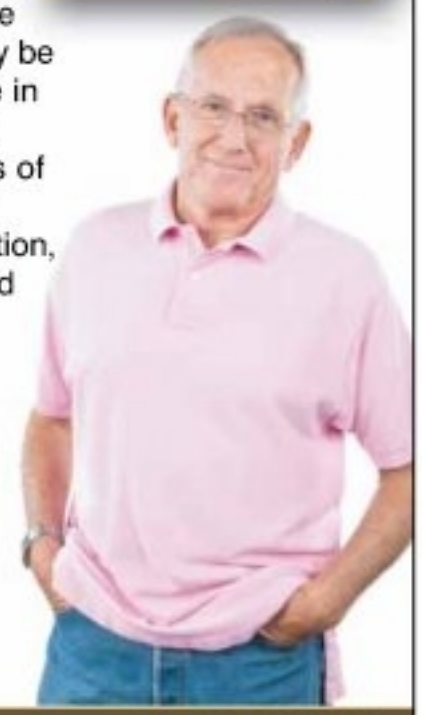

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Get your gamer the greatest goodies

Gamers can be a difficult lot to buy for. You can't get them a game because they probably camped out at Best Buy to get it the day it came out. Here are a few suggestions.

Sidescroller

LAWRENCE BONK
LAWRENCE.BONK@METRO.US

Roomba/ Scooba

$300-$400

The vidiot in your life is likely playing "Skyrim," and that game can suck away hundreds of hours. That doesn't leave time

for cleaning. Behold, the Roomba for vacuuming and its new cousin, the Scooba, for mopping.

iWOW 3D

$60

Do your loved ones tinker on their iPhones or iPads constantly? Get them a cool plug-in speaker for iOS devices. This way, you can at least follow along as they play "Infinity Blade 2." Our favorite speaker set is the iWOW 3D by SRS Labs.

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12/10	Killington
12/17	Sunday River
12/30-1/2	Quebec City
12/31	Mount Snow

JANUARY

1/1	Sunday River
1/7	Stowe
1/8	Stratton
1/13-16	Sugarloaf
1/14	Sunday River
1/15	Killington
1/20-22	Jay Peak
1/21	Jay Peak
1/22	Sunday River
1/22	Mount Snow
1/25	Mount Snow
1/27-29	Sunday River
1/28	Stowe
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Your brain on music

When you flip through your iTunes collection, isn't it amazing how each song affects your mood so significantly? One can make you feel light and bouncy; another can take you to a dark, depressing place connected to some past memory. Why does this happen?

"Once the emotional link to music is established, our neurological reactions are profound," says Dr. Concetta Tomaino, director of the Institute for Music and Neurologic Function in New York. "Our brain creates hard-wired responses to certain situations that are repeated when listening to the music."

FOR A METRO-APPROVED PLAYLIST OF HAPPY SONGS
HEALTH.METRO.US

COMSTOCK

▶ Maybe she's got some Katy Perry on her iPod.

Memories are key

The personal connection you have to certain songs triggers the release of feel-good chemicals, like dopamine and serotonin, in the brain. Hormonal changes also occur. "Your brain triggers the release of the 'cuddle' hormone, oxytocin, that promotes feelings of love and trust," says Dr. Michael De Georgia, director of Music and Medicine at University Hospitals Case Medical Center in Cleveland.

Your mom may also come into play. Maegan Morrow, a music therapist who is working with injured congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, believes that our connection with music comes from the way we were nurtured. "A certain voice could make you think of your mother's lullabies," she says.

Makeup matters, too

A song's structure also makes an impact. Dr. Tomaino says anything faster than normal walking tempo makes us feel energized. But according to Dr. De Georgia, the key to an elating song is one whose rhythm is at the same frequency as our heartbeat, an average of 60-80 beats per minute. Anything below 60 beats can be either sad or relaxing, whereas anything above 80 can rev you up or cause anxiety:

"Rock music can make you feel euphoric, but a frequency too much above heartbeat causes your brain to release stress hormones," he explains.

Morrow describes rhythm as an external force to which our bodies align. "Our bodies are rhythmic: our steps, our heartbeat, our breath," she says. "Rhythm brings structure to the environment and the body [tries] to align with that beat."

The happiest tunes

Feelings of happiness are strongly linked to key tone: "Minor keys are often associated with depression and sadness, and major keys with feeling happy," says Dr. De Georgia. Also, higher pitched, generally female sounds are thought to be comforting. But sometimes, it just comes down to you loving the song.

"When we know a song's tonal structure, we feel comfortable," says Dr. De Georgia. "Brilliant musicians such as Mozart and The Beatles managed to tweak a song just outside of the 'comfort zone,' making it unique without entirely losing the plot and going offbeat," he adds.

ROMINA McGUINNESS
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Strike a pose

Yoga pose of the week: Garland Pose

Note: People with knee injuries should avoid this pose.

▶ Hold it right there!

POSE COURTESY OF STEPHANIE KNUTSSON, BODYESM YOGA INSTRUCTOR

1 Squat with your feet as close together as possible.

2 Separate your thighs slightly wider than your torso. Exhaling, lean your torso forward and fit it snugly between your thighs.

3 Keep your feet flat and keep your body weight on your toes as much as possible.

4 Press your elbows against your inner knees, bringing your palms together, and resist the knees into the elbows.

5 To go further, press your inner thighs against the sides of your torso. Reach your arms forward, then swing them out to the sides and notch your shins into your armpits. Press your fingertips to the floor, or reach around the outside of your ankles and clasp your heels.

6 Hold the position for 30 seconds to one minute, then inhale, straighten the knees and stand.

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Stress test

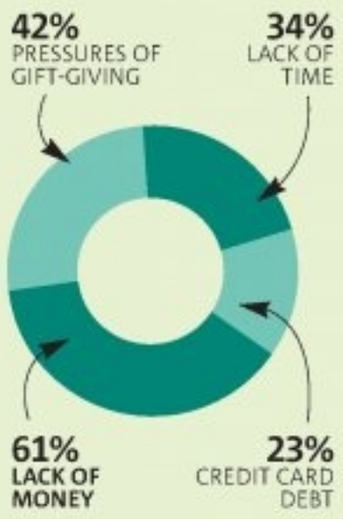
▶ Don't crack under the pressure!

Top causes of holiday stress

- **61 percent** of people list lack of money as the top cause
- **42 percent** said the pressures of gift-giving
- **34 percent** said lack of time
- **23 percent** said credit card debt

- **One in five people are worried that holiday stress could affect their physical health.**

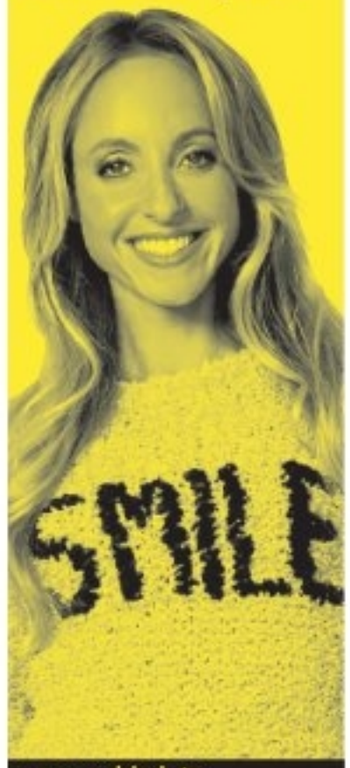
—Source: American Psychological Association



Zen in the city

GABRIELLE BERNSTEIN

AUTHOR OF "SPIRIT JUNKIE"



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LETTING GO OF 2011 AND WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR

The last month of the year offers us the opportunity to shed old ways. Much like the trees must let go of their leaves, we must let go of old patterns to start fresh in the new year. Change can be difficult — but this season, you have the opportunity to make change fun.

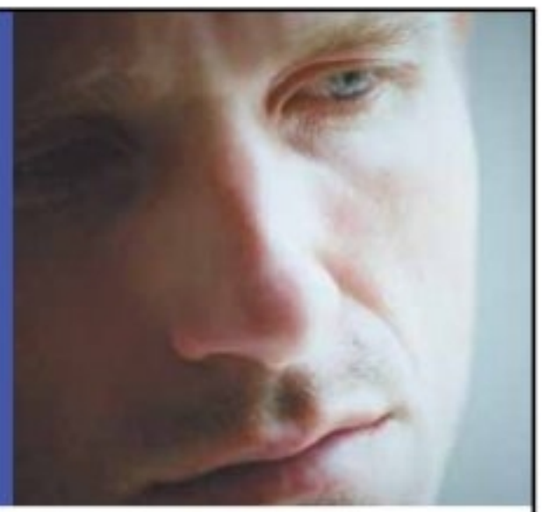
Rather than get overwhelmed about what you want to change, make it a ritualistic experience. The same way the leaves change colors before they fall, you too can change your inner life before you make great shifts in 2012. Take time this month to hibernate by spending time in deep contemplation. Get cozy in your local cafe with a cup of hot tea and spend some time reflecting.

Reflect on the year past and plan for the year ahead. Write a list of everything you accomplished in 2011. Then take an inventory of what you'd like to do differently in 2012. Without judgment, reflect honestly and fearlessly on 2011 and make a commitment to yourself that you'll let go of old patterns in order to grow with each new season.

*— Find **Gabrielle Bernstein** on Facebook and Twitter.*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome.

Have you taken medication to treat depression but still have symptoms?



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We're all made of same stuff

Wake up, already! W. Bush and Obama are the same corrupt puppets and their policies are 99 percent identical. Stop falling for the "divide and conquer" strategy. All people are the same: We want affordable homes and food, we hate potholes, we want love and respect, we hate the second Star Wars trilogy.

REMICK ENZMINGER, VIA E-MAIL

Unemployed? Here's why ...

RE: "MINIMUM WAGE NOT OUR ENEMY": If not for the minimum wage law, the employer could get away with not having to pay his employees a decent wage. Minimum wage law does not cause unemployment — but outsourcing does, and is a major cause for unemployment. Until corporations cut back on this practice, unemployment will remain high.

GERALD LARKE, VIA E-MAIL

It is not that the minimum wage destroys jobs, but that it prevents extra jobs from being created. The U.S. Government has simply made it too expensive for employers to hire people. The government playing backseat driver to employers is not fair for them — and more so, not fair for the young, poor and unskilled workers who are priced out of the job market because they can not produce the $7.25/hr that would justify hiring them.

HANS HAUGEN, VIA E-MAIL

We need you, not sure why

Occupy Wall Street, what is your mission? I have searched many of the Occupy websites and there are no tabs that I can click on with a clear "about us," "mission" and/or "vision." Get a mission, get a vision, get an agenda and get some space! Because the 99 percent does need you, we just cannot figure out what it is that you are doing for us!

CATHLEEN PRATA CISSE, VIA E-MAIL

Congress bows to a false idol

Many members of Congress have signed a pledge promising never to vote to raise taxes. Why is a separate pledge needed when the oath of office sufficiently covers the members' requisite responsibilities? This "no tax" pledge abrogates due diligence and assiduous deliberation. The nation is burdened with a large segment of Congress who have pledged to say, "No, no, no." We've got a bunch of toddlers in Washington.

GLENN HAYES, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Assume the initiative and direct events yourself instead of waiting on others to lead the way. You're a natural leader with talent many others lack.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Others tend to be more responsive than usual, so be sure to make the impression you want — especially when in the presence of someone to whom you're attracted.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Substantial gratification can be derived by working on projects that allow you to make improvements. You'll enjoy revamping outmoded things.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Your one-on-one relationships could hold some surprises, such as the unexpected cooperation of someone who never tends to pitch in and be helpful. Enjoy it while it lasts.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** One of the best ways to make money is to market what you love doing. It enables you to spend all your working hours applying yourself to satisfying both your inclinations and your income.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** There is something exciting about you that attracts others: your happiness at finally being able to spend your time doing exactly what you want to do.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Having a considerate and generous attitude actually puts you in the profit column. Lady Luck tends to favor those who care about the welfare of others as well as their own.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Keeping all of your comments positive enables you to say what you want without fear of anything being resented or misunderstood. It's a good practice.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** When you least expect it, you could suddenly get the credit and/or recognition for a kind act or significant accomplishment. In addition to the accolades, a reward could be in the offing.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** When you appreciate the fact that you're enough of a go-getter to pursue something quite meaningful, you'll get busy. Assertive action will bring you the results you desire.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Unless you realize the fact that you have the power and fortitude to alter conditions to your liking, you won't do so. It behooves you to have faith.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** It's one of those days when it would be best to work in conjunction with others instead of attempting to do everything on your own. An associate could have the talent you lack.

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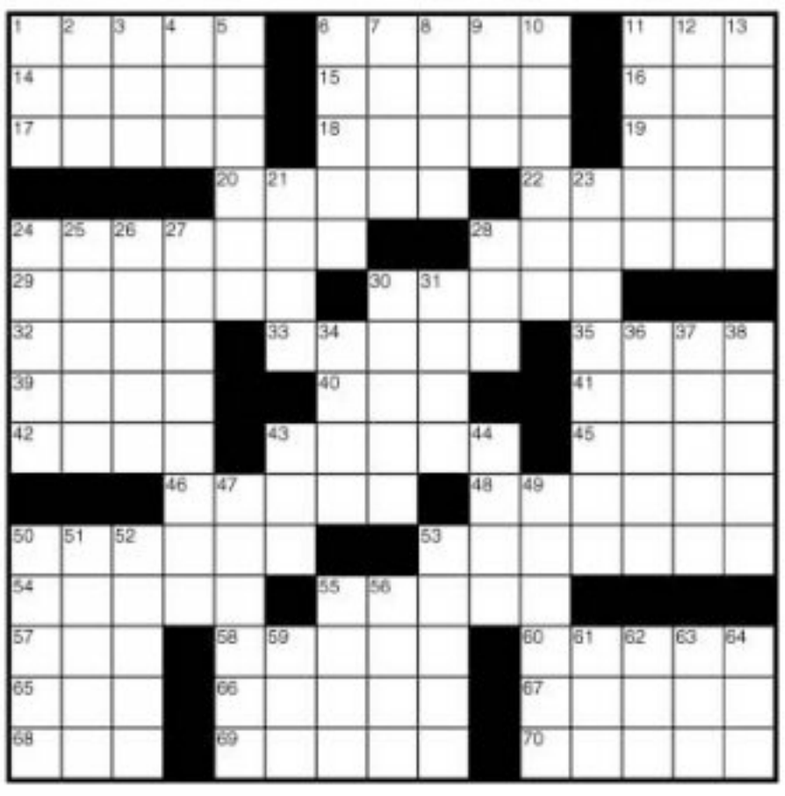
Across
1 Jingle
6 Kidded around
11 Quick punch
14 Versifier __ Nash
15 Take the podium
16 Shogun's capital
17 Hollow rock
18 Pharaoh's textile
19 Gore and Capone
20 Originate
22 __ fatuus
24 Delinquent(2 wds.)
28 Pseudopod possessor
29 Blame
30 Popped
32 Contented sound
33 Good-hearted ones
35 Vigoda and Burrows
39 Two fives for __ __
40 Hex halved
41 Push with the head
42 Vichyssoise ingredient
43 Seismic uplift
45 Gawk at
46 Black wood
48 Telescope lens
50 Rubber-stamped
53 Muscle builder
54 Chili pepper dip
55 Billy and nanny
57 IRS employee
58 Sea World orca
60 Type of jacket
65 Showery mo.
66 Heavy reading?
67 Roof overhangs
68 Plow into
69 Vista
70 Dweeb

Down
1 Machine tooth
2 Size above med.
3 Altar vow(2 wds.)



4 __ Jarrett of NASCAR
5 Works clay
6 Pretty in Paris
7 Rainbow goddess
8 Barn topper
9 Riviera summer
10 Blue jeans
11 Astrologer __ Dixon
12 Wing it (hyph.)
13 __ nova
21 Wished undone
23 Socialized(2 wds.)
24 Kind of bull
25 Sharp
26 Landslide debris
27 Jailers
28 "__ Gratia Artis"
30 Manilow or Goldwater
31 "Topaz" author
34 Harrow rival
36 Call, as an elk
37 China's Zhou __
38 Prow opposite
43 Coal scuttle
44 Legal wrong
47 Tigers and bears
49 Mollycoddle
50 Famed statuette
51 Phi Beta __
52 Bedside noise
53 Hesitate
55 Hunter's quarry
56 Comet, to an ancient
59 Ad __ committee
61 Motor City org.
62 Festive night
63 "The," to Wolfgang
64 Parapsychology topic

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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								6
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					8		9	
1								
		8		9				4
3	6	2		4		1		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ortiz

Report: Ortiz will return to Red Sox

They might not know how, but the Red Sox reportedly believe slugger David Ortiz will be back in Boston next season.

Ortiz has until tonight at midnight to accept arbitration, which would pay him slightly more than the $12.5 million he received in 2011.

ESPNBoston reported that the Red Sox were willing to offer two years, $18 million to him. Either way they expect him to re-sign. METRO

Old friends will meet again in DC

Belichick, Shanahan have friendship that dates back to Giants-Skins rivalry ◗ Only respect between two ◗ Pats coach not worried about secrets

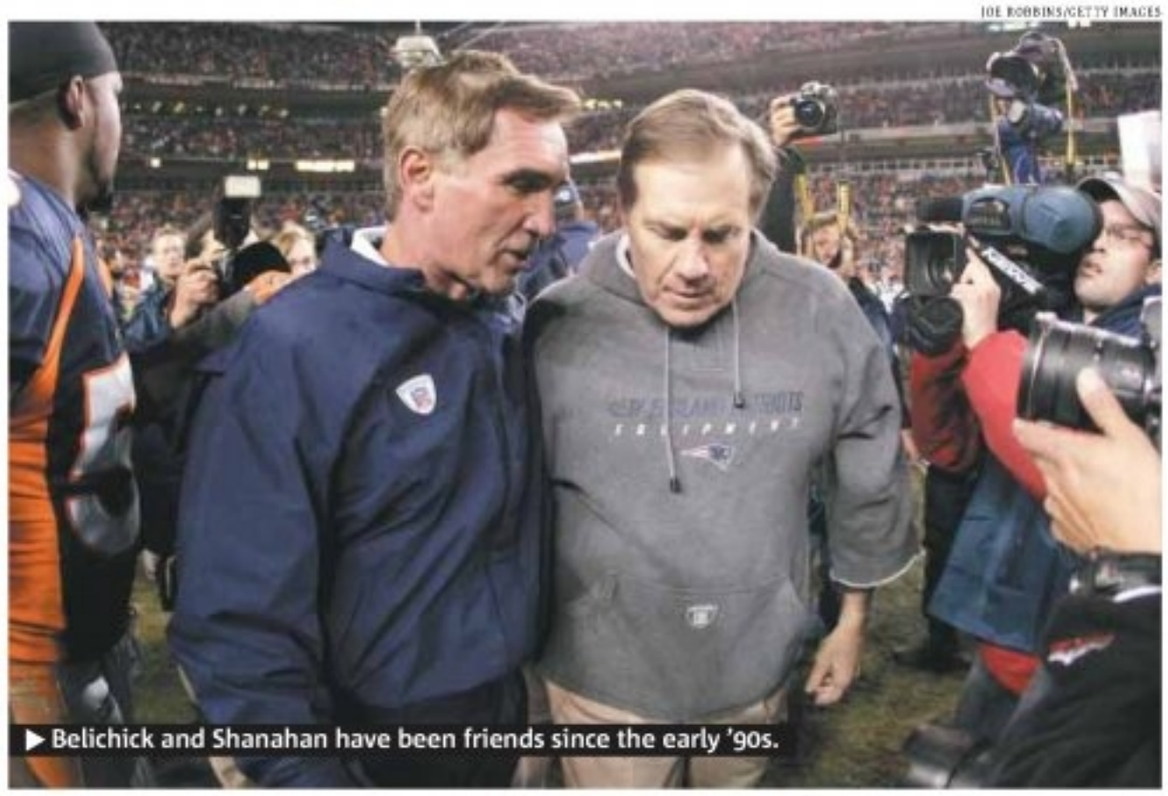
When the Patriots head to the nation's capital to take on the Redskins on Sunday, it will be business as usual.

But for Bill Belichick, it will also be a chance to beat old friend Mike Shanahan, now head coach of the Redskins.

The two go back to the early 1990s when Belichick was with the Giants and Shanahan the 49ers. While they've never coached on the same staff, they've had many matchups and off-seasons to get to know each other.

"I think Mike liked me because he used to like to beat up on us all the time," Belichick said. "I've gotten to know Mike a little bit off the field — league meetings and stuff like that. He's a great competitor. I have great respect for what he's done, all the championships and all the outstanding teams he has had and coached."

JOE ROBBINS/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Belichick and Shanahan have been friends since the early '90s.

The two are close enough that Belichick had Shanahan as a guest at Patriots training camp back in 2009 when Shanahan was out of the league.

Belichick admits that you can't give away too much to any opposing coach, but with Shanahan he's not worried.

"In Mike's case, this is a very smart and experienced coach, and I don't think there's probably too much that we do that he hasn't seen [or that] he's pretty familiar with," Belichick said.

JIMMY TOSCANO
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GRETZKY STILL MELTING ICE

Opinion

JASON McINTYRE
SPORTS@METRO.US

While I don't usually advocate joining Twitter, since it can be terribly addictive and a massive timesuck, the social media site has produced at least one phenomenon that is tangentially related to sports: Paulina Gretzky.

Yes, she's the daughter of the most famous hockey player to ever lace up skates, **Wayne Gretzky**. Paulina emerged on our radar a few years ago as a very good (and attractive) golfer. She's blossomed into a young, 20-something that has gone Hollywood.

With a posse of equally attractive friends, Paulina took Twitter by storm, mainly through droolworthy photographs. As her star rose online, you know what happened next … the photos bordered on provocative, and someone must have notified her dad Wayne, because at Thanksgiving, she abruptly quit.

Then, like an early Christmas present, she returned this week. And yes, the stunning photographs are back. Thank me later.

Start following Paulina Gretzky on Twitter. NOW.

Sports loser of the week

At the risk of sounding callous, your sports loser of the week is **Brad Penny**. The major league pitcher who has made a cool $49 million over the last 12 years with six teams (career record: 119-99; career ERA: 4.23) and previously dated actresses **Alyssa Milano** and **Eliza Dushku**, was dumped by his fiancee, dancer **Karina Smirnoff**.

– Jason Raj McIntyre runs the popular blog, The Big Lead.

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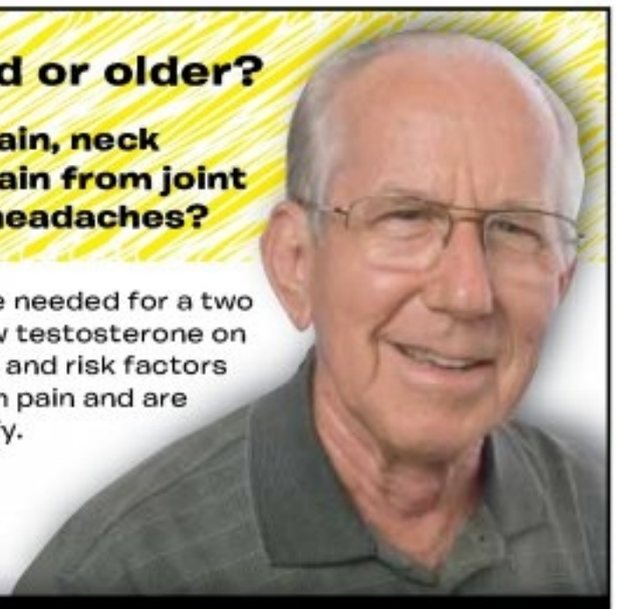
BCT Boston Clinical Trials

www.bostontrials.com

Are you 60 years old or older?

Do you suffer from back pain, neck pain, knee pain, hip pain, pain from joint replacement, arthritis or headaches?



Men who are 60 years and older are needed for a two visit study evaluating effects of low testosterone on body fat, muscle, physical function and risk factors for heart disease. If you suffer from pain and are on pain medications you may qualify.

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Mansion in the Hub

The 12 enormous units in the Bradley Mansion residences are already filled with people who are willing to pay up to $5 million

It's being described as Park Avenue living on Commonwealth Avenue.

The Bradley Mansion residences, currently under construction, are decadence at its best.

The three conjoined buildings, which will include 12 enormous units and 16-foot ceilings, are anchored by the former Bradley Mansion, a historical masterpiece designed by renowned architect Peabody & Stern at the turn of the century. The buildings were most recently owned by Simmons College.

What distinguishes the residences, besides the 86-foot-width, is the restoration of bygone-era details like the original grand staircase — the centerpiece of the dramatic lobby.

"These are historic, beautiful buildings. They were built at the same time as the Newport Mansions," said Tracy Campion of Campion & Company, the agents for the project. "One unit is like a room built in Versailles."

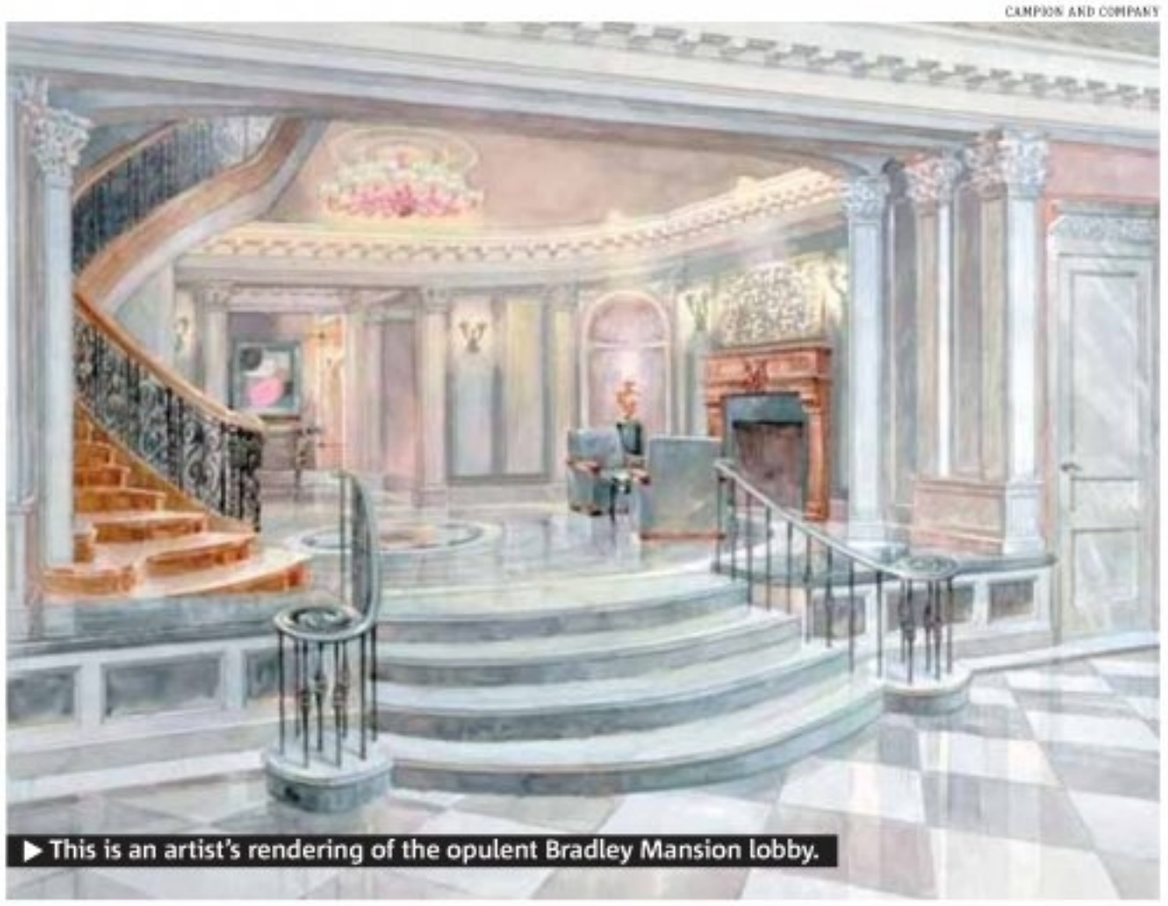
"One unit is like a room built in Versailles."
TRACY CAMPION, REAL ESTATE AGENT

$2.5M
The starting price of a unit in the Bradley Mansion residences.

All of the units, which are priced from $2.5 to $5 million, have direct elevator access, garage parking and at least three bedrooms and two and half baths. They range in size from 2,200 to 4,600 square feet and the buildings front on both Comm. Avenue and Marlboro Street. The residences will not be finished until next year, but they're already they are all under agreement, according to Campion.

"They sold out in a four-month time frame," said Campion. "I wish I had more."

CAMPION AND COMPANY



▶ This is an artist's rendering of the opulent Bradley Mansion lobby.

Bradley Mansion residences amenities

- Concierge
- Direct elevator access
- Garage parking in a heated garage
- Outdoor living area
- One-floor living

CHRISTINA WALLACE
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30 yr jumbo	4.990	0.000	$164	20%	4.993
15 yr jumbo	4.875	0.000	$164	20%	4.881
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Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
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30 yr fixed	4.125	0.000	$959	20%	4.174
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10/1 jumbo ARM	4.750	0.000	$787	20%	4.061
5/1 jumbo ARM	4.250	0.000	$787	20%	3.372
(C) 292 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02141					*NMLS# 441398*

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Hostess with the mostess

This year the gang is coming over to your place — but don't stress ◐ We ask the pros for tips on how to throw a party that your guests will be talking about way after the Christmas lights come down

STOCKBYTE

▶ Expect rave reviews this year.

Barbara Barry

Designer, Barbara Barry Baker Collection

VICTORIA PEARSON

▶ Barbara Barry

Keep it simple
I try to create spaces that are really calm as a simple backdrop for the stuff of life, and when is there more stuff than at Christmas? Last year I did nothing — I didn't even put up a tree. I couldn't believe how colorful and full my house became of gifts, people, food, things — just the celebration, and it wasn't overwhelming. So I might sound a bit Zen there, but I would [suggest] a simple mantelpiece — I love magnolia leaves because they're still out at this time of year, I love small votives, and maybe a smell in the house like cinnamon.

Q&A

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Stewart

Martha Stewart

What's your best piece of entertaining advice for the holidays?
Organization is it.
What about when dinner is served?
Well, you still have to be organized. And stay calm!

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MORE TIPS FROM THESE EXPERTS

Katie Lee

The chef, cookbook author and Clos du Bois spokesperson will host her family at her new house in the Hamptons for Christmas.

On her style
My entertaining style is similar to my food and fashion style: I like casual, comfortable and a touch of couture. I think when you're entertaining it's about making it easy and making everyone feel comfortable when they walk in your door, not like feeling like the etiquette police are gonna come out. You want everybody to just feel relaxed and have a good time. I think the hostess sets the tone, so if you're having a good time and you're relaxed, everybody else will be too.

Creative centerpieces
It doesn't have to be flowers. One thing I really like to do is get clear glass bowls and fill them with ball ornaments. I'll fill bowls with those and put [them] going down the table. It looks fun and festive and a box of those at the dollar store is, like, two bucks. Get creative: Go out in your yard and get branches, pine cones — you can take a gold glitter pen and decorate each of the pine cones a little bit. I also love citrus for decorating, so if you do the pine branches, put some clementines in there and then everybody can eat those while they're having tea. I also love the way pomegranates look in a bowl.

▶ Ornaments make for a festive centerpiece.

FOTOLIA

On shortcuts you can take
Don't bite off more than you can chew when you're entertaining. Have some assembly foods: Go to the Italian specialty store and buy salami, prosciutto, parmesan and olives and put it on a beautiful platter — that's totally easy. Buy some store-bought breadsticks, wrap them in prosciutto and put that in a glass. For dessert, buy a pound cake, cut it into layers and spread it with whipped cream and berries. There's all kinds of shortcuts you can take, and then you can focus on the main course. And I try to [cook] foods as far in advance as possible and put the finishing touches on right before the merriment.

MELISSA HOM

▶ Katie Lee

On desserts
I love cookies because they're easy for people to grab. You don't need a plate and a fork so it's one less thing to wash. I also will fill bowls with candy and let people dig in — it feels a little bit like being a kid.

Deborah Needleman

Founding editor of Domino magazine, editor-in-chief of WSJ. Magazine and author of "The Perfectly Imperfect Home"

I always feel that if someone comes over to my house and immediately takes a nap, you are a huge success — rather than you're so boring they've fallen asleep. It's the idea that you know that everything is comfortable and the couch is cozy and the pillows are soft and the food is so good. And they're so drunk that they just passed out.

I'm also a big fan of the drinks tray, which looks gracious and grown up. Lined up bottles and glasses just look really pretty set on a tray.

MELANIE ACEVEDO

▶ Needleman

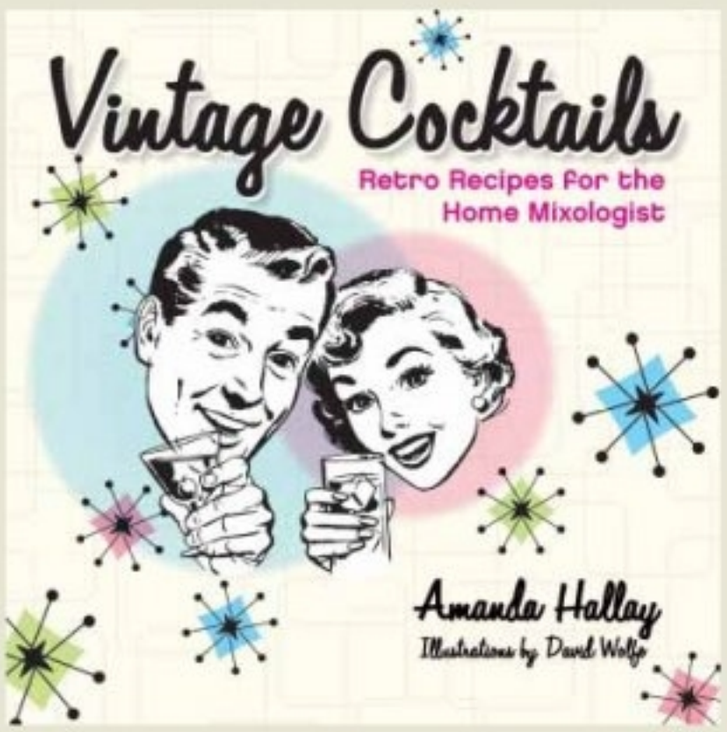
When people don't have much room, I've seen them put bottles into the shelf of a bookshelf. It looks very inviting. When people come over, there's not that awkward moment at the beginning — it's like: "There's the bar." They can make themselves a drink. Hey, they can make other people a drink.

Make your pad cozy.

Amanda Hallay

Author of "Vintage Cocktails" and professor at LIM College

Which of your vintage drinks are best for a holiday party?
Without a doubt, The Champagne Cocktail! It's so easy to make, but so pretty and festive, and you can save a lot of bucks by not making it with real champagne; you can make it with prosecco, or any sparkling dry white wine. All you do is throw a sugar cube into the bottom of a champagne flute (although any glass will do; who cares when you're serving Champagne Cocktails?!), add a few drops of Angostura bitters (which you buy from the grocery store) a shot of cognac (optional), top with champagne and garnish with a maraschino cherry and a ribbon of orange rind. It is so spectacular looking, but you can bring it in for a dollar a glass, and everyone will swoon when handed such a beautiful cocktail. (And if you're using cheap prosecco, make sure you still announce it as a Champagne Cocktail; nobody will know the difference.)



▶ Hallay

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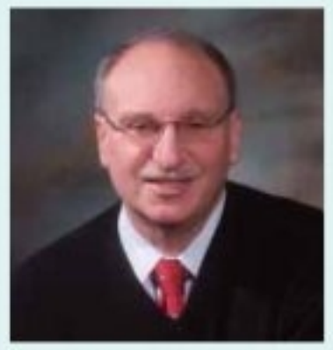

IS IT BETTER TO INHERIT REAL ESTATE?

By Attorney George Warshaw

Many people often want to give their home to their children before they die. It's certainly simpler but it sometimes has unintended tax consequences. (See GeorgeintheMetro.com for last week's story).

There is an important tax rule regarding inheriting real estate that could save you a bundle of taxes.

When a person dies, the fair market value of any real estate owned must be determined. If you inherit property, you inherit it at its fair market value.

Inherit a house worth $500,000, sell it a month later for $500,000, and there is no taxable gain. But what if your parents only paid $100,000 for it 20 years ago?

It matters not what your parents paid if you inherit it, but it may matter if you receive it as a gift during their lifetimes.

The basic tax rule is this: you inherit property at fair market value; but when you receive it as a gift, you acquire it at the same cost+ tax basis as the giver had in the property. Sell it later for more than cost+ and you could pay a tax that could have been avoided.

So before gifting real estate: always consult your tax advisor or attorney. The foregoing is not intended as legal advice. © 2011 George Warshaw.

Attorney George Warshaw represents buyers and sellers of homes, condos and investment properties, prepares wills and trusts for inheriting real estate, and trusts that protect your children and pets. George welcomes new clients and questions at metro@warshawlaw.com.

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OPEN A MACY'S ACCOUNT FOR EXTRA 20% SAVINGS THE FIRST 2 DAYS, UP TO $100, WITH MORE REWARDS TO COME. Macy's credit card is available subject to credit approval; new account savings valid the day your account is opened and the next day; excludes services, selected licensed departments, gift cards, restaurants, gourmet food & wine. The new account savings are limited to a total of $100; application must qualify for immediate approval to receive extra savings; employees not eligible.